

**Community Engagement Meeting
Comments
From Comment Cards**

Question: What can the City do to help you (and your community) better participate in decisions? What is working now? What needs to change?

January 31: Firehall Museum

1. This is working. Indiv. Community representatives vs a smaller number opens communication broadly. It allows individual communities a voice. NRP has been a very positive vector for communication in this city. Occasionally the voice of the community is not heard by our representatives (Councilpersons). There is real wisdom (Often) in the voice of the people who live in individual communities.
2. Inform people of issues that are coming up for a vote.
3. Read the detail of neighborhoods. Give in this project Look at _____ ex. _____ request from all area of city.
4. Re-design the NRP power-sharing organization.
5. Continue (full) funding for the NRP subsequent to 2009 to continue the citizen /resident empowerment facilitated by and through the program.
6. As a neighborhood group – Logan Park has seen its operational support cut by the city from 10,000 per year to much less. We are forced to cut meetings & communication with our residents as a result. Does this support the findings of the report? We are looking for alternate sources of money to stay in operation. But this takes time. Jeff Kraker
7. There should be less use of jargon & acronyms and more basic “101” explaining about the different organizations & their duties/goals. Participation: The smaller neighborhood organizations know how to reach their neighborhoods. For those who don’t use the internet, a small section in the star tribune could help people learn about city information.
8. Keep NRP as is in the community. (Its working why change it)
9. The city should involve the neighborhoods or engage neighborhoods earlier in a planning process, not just announce & respond to reaction. Likewise the neighborhood groups should use a significant portion of time & material resources to engage the community and encourage their feedback. After getting that feedback NRP;s should represent that feedback even if the board members views may differ.
10. Reduce city level bureaucracy so that participating citizens can be heard. The community level NRP end of the system is the part that works.
11. For starters – you picked 2 people to write on the flip charts that are controlling their neighborhoods. What would you have learned if “All” comments were used instead of only their views. Change: Would like more specific help “free” to n’hoods. Planners, grant writers, etc.

12. The worst thing about the current neighborhood. NRP funded system is how some neighborhoods have spent significant amounts of office and paid staff and have become arrogant. Self serving clicks who don't really represent the neighborhoods in which they are based.
13. Get immigrant populations involved in the process – have translators available etc. get youth involved.
14. The city can further empower the neighborhood organizations to reach out to neighbors and engage them. Sustainable empowered neighborhood organizations that aren't absorbed in to a bigger group. Let neighborhoods influence city priorities.